

At page 56, line 6, please delete "environmental or developmentally-regulated" and insert --stress induced--;

At page 56, line 7, please delete "nitrogen assimilation and/or metabolism" and insert --target--;

At page 56, line 8, after "is inducible under", please insert --stress-induced--;

At page 56, lines 8 and 9, please delete "where it would be beneficial to take up, store or use nitrogen";

At page 56, line 10, after "by the presence of", please insert an abiotic stress,  
including light, temperature, pH, saline, drought, nutrient deprivation or a combination thereof;

At page 56, lines 10 and 11, please delete "nitrate or other form of nitrogen and will be induced by application of a nitrogenous fertilizer";

At page 56, line 11, after "The", please insert --use of the--;

At page 56, line 12, please delete "osmotic-"; and

At page 56, line 12, after "stress", please add -- - --.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-6, 9-25, 27-36, and 40-63 without prejudice. Please amend claims 7, 8, 26 and 37-39 and add claims 64-68 as follows:

7. **(Amended)** A method for directing root-specific expression of a target gene in a plant, comprising:  
producing a plant from a transformed plant cell such that root-specific expression of a target gene occurs,  
wherein the transformed plant cell comprises a target gene in operative linkage with an abiotic stress-induced genetic regulatory element which directs the root-specific expression of the target gene.